in rural and hilly areas;

(d) whether kerosene is being mixed in diesel oil and is also supplied to well-to-do persons who have gas connections; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) The subsidy on Kerosene oil is met through the oil pool account mechanism. The estimated subsidy on Kerosene oil during the last three years is given below :

	Rs./Crs.	Rs./Ltr.
1994-95	3740	3.39
1995-96	4190	3.69
1996-97	6350	5.18

(b) to (e) SKO is a deficit product and deficit is met by imports. The Central Government makes only bulk allocation of SKO to the States/UTs. Its retail distribution to the different areas including the rural areas within the State is the responsibility of the State Government. The scale of distribution and entitlement of individuals for getting PDS kerosene is also decided by State Governments.

In order to check adulteration of diesel by kerosene steps such as Filter Paper Test, Furfural doping of Kerosene, Densit test, blue dying of Kerosene, surprise inspections by field officers of the oil companies and joint industry teams are taken. Inspections are conducted by State Government Enforcement Agencies also.

[Translation]

Funds for Science Educational Research

2941. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR :
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are not providing adequate funds and assistance for science education and research works in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to provide more funds for the said works;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the amount allocated for the science education and research works during the last two years, year-wise; and

(e) the amount of annual expenditure being incurred on science education and scientific research in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) to (d) The Govt. had provided an amount of Rs. 17.50 crore each for the purpose to UGC during 1995-96 and 1996-97 respectively. The same has been stepped up to Rs. 28.00 crore in 1997-98. It is, however not always possible to meet all the demands made by the universities in this behalf to the fullest extent, due to resources crunch.

(e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pension to Freedom Fighters

2942. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to enhance the pension and other facilities being granted to the freedom fighters on the occasion of 50th Anniversary of India's Independenc;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this facility will also be extended to their dependents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) to (d) During the 50th year of India's Independence several demands have been received by the Government to enhance the pension being granted to freedom fighters and their eligible dependents under Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Schemes of 1980. The Central Government on 10th July, 1997 had constituted a Joint Committee of Freedom Fighters and Officials to look into various problems of freedom fighters. The Joint Committee met on 28th July, 1997 and made several recommendations including enhancement of freedom fighters pension being granted to the freedom fighters and their eligible dependents. These recommendations are under active consideration of the Government.

Erosion By Ganga

2943. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the working group constituted by the